## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PC1/FR2004/050621

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 C22F1/10

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 C22C C03B C22F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, CHEM ABS Data

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages  | Relevant to claim No |
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| X          | PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 018, no. 632 (C-1280), 2 December 1994 (1994-12-02) -& JP 06 240392 A (MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORP), 30 August 1994 (1994-08-30) abstract      | 1-5,8,9,<br>11-16    |
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| * Special categories of cited documents:  'A' document defining the general state of the lart which is not considered to be of particular relevance.  'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filling date.  'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified).  'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means.  'P' document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed. | <ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filting date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cated to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention.</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone.</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance, the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul> |
| Date of the actual completion of the international search   | Date of mailing of the international search report   |
| 17 May 2005   | 24/05/2005   |
| Name and mailing address of the ISA   | Authorized officer   |
| European Patent Office, P. B. 5818 Patentiaan 2<br>NL - 2280 HV Ryswijk<br>Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.<br>Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016   | Gregg, N   |

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